



## Advanced Placement European History Summer 2012 Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Euro.

Although our study next year will be the creation of Modern Europe, from 1450 to the present, the real focus is *change over time*, one of the most basic and important definitions of history. In 1450 Europe was still feeling the impact of the Black Death, a great biological disaster that had begun 100 years earlier. I have included in your summer reading a chapter of historian Barbara Tuchman's history of the 14th century, *A Distant Mirror*, which describes the effects of this catastrophic epidemic.

To obtain your copy of this chapter you will need to go to the Summer Reading Site on the Lincoln Webpage and print your copy. For students who have difficulty I have left copies at the front desk which will be available when the front office is open this summer. You will need to sign that you have received this material at the desk. You may also buy or check out Dr. Tuchman's history, *A Distant Mirror* and read Chapter Five. Do not wait until August to copy the material in case you experience difficulty. My email address is [oliverm@leonschools.net](mailto:oliverm@leonschools.net) if you have questions. This material is due at the end of the first week of school.

To help you visualize the course of the Black Death, I want you to imagine that you have been hired to help create a movie about the Black Death using Tuchman's material. The following directions ask you to establish scenes, choose main characters, select music and setting to try to see what is happening as you read. Sometimes this takes two readings, first to understand and then to apply what you have read.

**Credit for this summer reading assignment will be given in AP European History.**

**The entire summer reading assignment will be collected Friday, August 24, 2012. This reading assignment will account for 10% of your first nine weeks grade in AP European History.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Read the chapter provided with this assignment sheet, "This Is the End of the World: The Black Death" from *A Distant Mirror: Life in the Calamitous Fourteenth Century* by Barbara Tuchman. Complete both **Step One & Step Two** (found on back of the page) for Part One. Part Two of the summer assignment is a movie review of one of the films on the back of this sheet.

### **Part ONE: Making a Black Death Movie in Two Steps**

**Step One:** Create an overview of this material for possible use as a play or movie by carefully reading Chapter 5 from *A Distant Mirror*. Pay close attention to location and details such as character and setting. Then create an overview of the reading using the following directions. Be sure to complete A through C.

- A. Break the entire reading into 10 or more separate scenes of your choosing
- Briefly list those scenes and *explain why you chose each*.
  - Add your ideas for setting and music for each scene (this can be contemporary or merely describe instruments and tone of the period)

**NOTE:** Scene descriptions should not be longer than 3 - 5 lines for each scene.

- B. Identify five historical figures from the chapter to develop into major characters for your movie. *Briefly explain why you chose these five individuals.*
- C. Once you have your list of ten scenes and five characters completed, describe the type of movie you will make. Would you use a consistent character throughout, a narrator? Explain how you would tell this story. Would it be a documentary with a narrator, or a narrative work with a main character? A musical? How do you see this material filmed? Provide specific details.

*ASSIGNMENT CONTINUES ON OTHER SIDE*

**Step Two:** Create **ONE** of the following to focus on a single scene in the reading.

1. In no more than one page, single-spaced (12 point font), choose **one** scene from your overview which is the most outstanding to you. Write a detailed description of how this scene is to be filmed. Be sure to include such details as camera angles, lighting, characters, setting, significant props, a brief narrative (beginning, middle, end of scene).

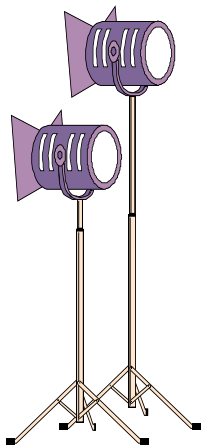
**-OR-**

2. On a **half-sheet of poster board**, using at least three colors, create a map of Europe. This must be done in your own hand, and not created electronically. List the cities and dates of this plague on the development of European society. Include on your poster **6 - 10 effects** of the Black Death upon European history.

**-OR-**

3. On a **half-sheet of poster board**, make a story-board of at least 6 panels showing the development of the scene (this should look like a comic strip). Include the place, year or years, and the names of any major characters.

## **Part TWO:** View one of the movies listed below and complete a film review.



The purpose of a review, unlike a report, is to look beyond the basic story. Use the directions below as you write your review. These are the minimum requirements, but please free to exceed them if you have more to say. Film reviews should be single-spaced and not exceed one page in length. Please use a font no smaller than 10 and no larger than 12.

At the top of your review include the title of the film underlined, date of production, director, and any historical consultants listed in the credits.

1. In the first paragraph write a very brief summary of the plot, no more than fifty words. Include in this introduction the time and place in which the plot occurs.

2. In the next paragraph describe the main characters & setting. Explain how each of these contributes to the film. Please site specific examples as you explain each.

3. The third paragraph addresses the director's intent. Explain the director's purpose in making this movie? For example, was it just to tell a story, or does he/she wants to teach us something? How do you know? Justify your answer with specific examples from the movie. Some methods directors use to convey a message are found in music, costumes, flashbacks, atmosphere/weather.

4. The final paragraph addresses your reaction. Did you have any prior knowledge about the time period? Would it have helped you understand the movie better, or is it unnecessary? Would you recommend this movie, please explain why, or why not?

### **Film Choices:**

*Pride and Prejudice*

*Das Boot* (subtitles/profanity)

*Chariots of Fire*

*Babette's Feast* (subtitles)

*Luther*

*The Madness of King George*

*Hope and Glory*

*Cromwell*

*The King's Speech* (profanity)

*A Man For All Seasons*

*A Hard Day's Night*

**A final thought:** I look forward to reading your work. Over the years, summer reading has been a strong indicator of who is ready for the challenge of AP Euro, not only by the quality of the work, but by timeliness and the ability of students to follow directions. You have all summer to do this (and many other interesting things). Don't put it off to the last minute. Get a calendar, mark off a few days and make the commitment. Start maybe with the movie. Maybe you'd want to read a few reviews first to find the movie that you want to spend a few hours with. This is a good idea, unless you plan to substitute the reviewer's effort for your own. (I own a computer also and plagiarism is a terrible, not good at all, way to meet a new student). Look at a few reviews. Get some historical background. Then find your movie, go over the requirements on your sheet, put the other reviews aside and watch. Answer the questions, write your review and store it on your computer. Done. Do part One of the Black Death a week or so later. Done. Finally do part Two at the beginning of August. Done, done and done. Ready to start school with something you are proud of. Follow the directions, check off each part and you are ready to go. Welcome to Euro.

*ASSIGNMENT CONTINUES ON OTHER SIDE*